



Michigan Association of Health Plans

Testimony in Support with Concerns of ^{SB 178} HB 4275

Senate Health Policy Committee

March 5, 2013

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Good afternoon Mr. Chair and members of the committee. I am Christine Shearer, Deputy Director Office of Legislation and Advocacy of the Michigan Association of Health Plans. MAHP represents 15 health plans caring for more than 2.8 million Michigan residents enrolled in Medicare, Commercial and Medicaid product lines.

MAHP's membership was originally opposed to this legislation but because Senator Schuitmaker included us in workgroup discussions and incorporated all of our requested amendments we now support this legislation but with reservations about unintended consequence.

A standardized authorization form, if well crafted, could be beneficial to provider practices. However, we have misgivings that a single form may limit needed specific information resulting in a delay or denial of authorization. In some cases this may require numerous correspondences between the payer and prescribers office to complete the authorization.

In addition, to meet federal requirements, such a form would require CMS approval if intended to be used by either Medicaid or Medicare plans.

That being said MAHP supports the bill as written.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We would be happy to answer any questions members may have.